

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 2329

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SUBJECT: BLACK REACTIONS TO NEW PRIME MINISTER

REF: (A) JOHANNESBURG 2324, (B) PRETORIA 5767

1. THE FOLLOWING COMBINED DISPATCH BY REPORTERS OF THE
BLACK CIRCULATION, ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY TRANSVAAL POST,
PUBLISHED ON SEPTEMBER 29, SUMMARIZES THE ATTITUDE OF THE
BLACK COMMUNITY TO SOUTH AFRICA'S NEW PRIME MINISTER,
P.W. BOTHA: BEGIN QUOTE: GENERAL REACTION FROM BLACKS ON
THE ELECTION OF MR P W BOTHA AS NEW PRIME MINISTER OF
SOUTH AFRICA WAS ONE OF DISAPPOINTMENT AND DISMAY.
THE DEAN OF JOHANNESBURG, THE VERY REV SIMEON NKOANE
SAID MR BOTHA'S ELECTION WAS DISAPPOINTING "BECAUSE ONE
CANNOT SEE HOW AN OLD MAN SUCH AS HIMSELF WOULD BE ABLE TO
LEAD THE COUNTRY THROUGH SUCH DIFFICULT TIMES."

MRS LUCY MVUBELO, A TRADE UNIONIST, SAID BLACKS COULD
ALMOST ANTICIPATE WHAT HARD TIMES THEY WILL BE GOING
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THROUGH. " THE QUESTION ABOUT BLACKS BEING INVOLVED
IN THE LAW-MAKING MACHINERY OF THIS COUNTRY WAS NOW OUT
OF THE QUESTION," SHE SAID.

THE REV SAM BUTI, PRESIDENT OF SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL
OF CHURCHES, SAID DR CONNIE MULDER WOULD HAVE MADE A
BETTER LEADER. HE, HOWEVER, CONGRATULATED MR P W BOTHA

ON HIS ELECTION. MR BEN NTESO, EXECUTIVE MEMBER OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN BLACK SOCIAL WORKERS' ASSOCIATION, SAID HE HOPED THERE WOULD BE A CHANGE OF HEART WITH MR BOTHA'S ELECTION. MR CLYDE NTOMBELA, A LABORATORY TECHNOLOGIST AT BARAGWANATH SAID: "I FEEL THEY SHOULD HAVE CHOSEN MR PIK BOTHA FOR HE HAS A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEMS FACING THIS COUNTRY BECAUSE OF HIS EXPERIENCE AT THE UNITED NATIONS."

MR SIMON MZOLO, CHAIRMAN OF THE DIEPKLOOF HEALTH COMMITTEE SAID HE COULD FORESEE NO CHANGES BECAUSE "THEY HAVE REPLACED ONE VERKRAMPTE WITH ANOTHER." THE SAME SENTIMENT WAS SHARED BY MR PHINEAS XULU, PRINCIPAL OF ILLINGE SECONDARY SCHOOL AND CHAIRMAN OF THE VOSLOORUS COMMUNITY COUNCIL. HE SAID: "I THINK THERE WILL BE NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MR BOTHA AND THE RETIRED PRIME MINISTER. HE WILL BE WORKING UNDER THE SAME POLICY AS MR VORSTER DID. THINGS ARE GOING TO RUN THE SAME COURSE."

MR DANIEL TJONGARERO, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF SWAPO, SAID: "IF MR BOTHA'S ELECTION AS PRIME MINISTER DOES AFFECT US AT ALL, IT WILL BE ADVERSELY. I CAN SEE A LOT OF KRAGDADIGHEID COMING." MR T W KAMBULE, A WITS UNIVERSITY LECTURER HAD A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT NOTE: "IN THE EYES OF THE RADICAL ELEMENTS, IT IS A GOOD CHOICE -- FOR THINGS WILL HAPPEN FASTER," HE SAID. END QUOTE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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2. COMMENT: IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE CONSUL GENERAL ON SEPTEMBER 26, DR. NTHATO MOTLANA, CHAIRMAN OF THE SOWETO COMMITTEE OF TEN, PREDICTED THE NATIONALIST PARTY CAUCUS DECISION TO CHOOSE P.W. BOTHA. HE SAID THAT BOTHA'S SELECTION WOULD BE WELCOMED BY THE BLACK COMMUNITY SINCE HIS HARD LINE ATTITUDES WOULD SPEED UP THE FORCES FOR REAL CHANGE. MOTLANA EXPLAINED THAT BLACK ADVANCEMENT OVER THE PAST TWELVE YEARS HAS BEEN IMPEDED BY THE PROMISE OF COSMETIC CHANGE WHICH VORSTER HELD OUT TO THE WORLD WHILE PROCEEDING TO ENTRENCH SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT. JOHNSON

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